Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination;

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to said data rate.

10. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator;

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme, a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, and a third encoder, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination; and

a network controller capable of selecting at least two of said plurality of speech data signal encoders, including said first encoder and said second encoder;

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wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects, according to each said data rate, one of said speech data signal encoders selected by said network controller.

16. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

selecting one of a plurality of speech encoders according to said data rate, said plurality of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said one of said plurality of speech encoders;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech signal frame-by-frame.

22. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

choosing, according to a predetermined factor, one group from a plurality of groups of speech encoders, said chosen group of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination;

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

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selecting, according to said data rate, one of said plurality of speech encoders in said

chosen group; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said selected speech encoder;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said

speech signal frame-by-frame.

53. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a

plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first

speech encoding scheme and a second encoder, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate

encoder incapable of rate determination;

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of

said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to said data

rate.

Clean Version of the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination;

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to said data rate.

10. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator;

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme, a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, and a third encoder, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination; and

a network controller capable of selecting at least two of said plurality of speech data signal encoders, including said first encoder and said second encoder;

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wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of said frames and selects, according to each said data rate, one of said speech data signal encoders selected by said network controller.

16. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

selecting one of a plurality of speech encoders according to said data rate, said plurality of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said one of said plurality of speech encoders;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said speech signal frame-by-frame.

22. (Amended) A method of encoding a speech signal including a plurality of speech signal frames, said encoding method comprising the steps of:

choosing, according to a predetermined factor, one group from a plurality of groups of speech encoders, said chosen group of speech encoders including at least a first encoder using a first speech encoding scheme and a second encoder using a second speech encoding scheme different from said first speech encoding scheme, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate encoder incapable of rate determination;

determining a data rate of one of said speech signal frames;

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selecting, according to said data rate, one of said plurality of speech encoders in said

chosen group; and

encoding said one of said speech signal frames using said selected speech encoder;

wherein said determining, selecting and encoding steps are repeated so as to encode said

speech signal frame-by-frame.

53. (Amended) A speech encoding system for encoding a speech data signal including a

plurality of frames, said speech encoding system comprising:

a speech data rate determinator; and

a plurality of speech data signal encoders, including at least a first encoder using a first

speech encoding scheme and a second encoder, wherein said first encoder is a fixed bit-rate

encoder incapable of rate determination;

wherein said speech data rate determinator determines a data rate for encoding each of

said frames and selects one of plurality of said speech data signal encoders according to said data

rate.